

# COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

April 2007

## Probation Celebrates a Century of Excellence in Serving San Diego

In 1907 the population of San Diego County was 50,000. Only six percent of Americans had a high school diploma. And on October 23, the Probation department was created by the Board of Supervisors to oversee the development of a new community safety program that was sweeping the country.

In celebration of its 100th anniversary, the department held an all staff training and recognition event on March 5. Child Welfare League of America Executive Director Shay Bilchik was the keynote speaker. Bilchik helped Supervisor Ron Roberts, the Probation department, the court system and others to develop what is now considered a national model for juvenile justice reform. The 1998 San Diego County Comprehensive Strategy for Youth, Family and Community included the creation of a continuum of services from prevention to detention, which relied heavily on the teamwork of community-based organizations, law enforcement, the County's Health and Human Services Agency, and schools.

Still active in the community as the

CEO of the Urban League, former Chief Probation Officer Cecil Steppe says that the County's Probation department is nationally respected as one of the most innovative and best run in the country.

Steppe, who was only the second black chief probation officer in the history of California when he was appointed by the Board of Supervisors in 1980, later became the County's head of Social Services.

The department is working to make the next 100 years as successful as the first 100. The adult system is implementing innovative reforms modeled after the juvenile system. The Youthful Offender Program implements graduated sanctions on probationers aged 18-24 who commit a disproportionate number of crimes in our community. The most serious sex offenders are now wearing GPS devices that track their every move. DUI offenders will soon be wearing ankle bracelets that detect alcohol consumption 24 hours a day.

As part of its celebration, Probation created a video chronicling the history of its past 100 years. The short clip is available on the department's Web site at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/probation).



***In the Beginning:*** The San Diego Detention Home (later Anthony Home), started out as a seven bedroom farmhouse in Mission Valley. After several expansions, it had 52 detainee rooms, a dormitory, three school rooms, a manual training shop, 17 staff bedrooms, and operational offices.

## County Marches on Toward MOD Goal

The County is involved in helping the community every day, but once a year employees come together in a special way to aid a very special cause.

A proud supporter of the March of Dimes WalkAmerica since 1996, the County's fundraising and participation goals are higher than ever as it joins the effort to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

This year the County has set an ambitious goal of raising \$87,500, which translates to 350 walkers bringing in \$250 each. To achieve this, each of the County's five groups has been given a

target based on its number of employees. As of the end of March, this year's hosting group, Land Use and Development (LUEG), led fundraising with one-third of its goal achieved. Finance and General Government led in number of paid walkers, with 72 percent.

There are two opportunities to participate in this year's WalkAmerica. On April 21, a walk will be held in Carlsbad's Cannon Park, while a walk on April 28 will be held downtown in Balboa Park.

LUEG Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Chandra Wallar is looking forward showing her support.

"Waking up early on a Saturday: doable,"

she says. "Walking 3.1 miles in Balboa Park: doable. Walking those miles as part of the County Team and fundraising for the March of Dimes: priceless!"

Employees are encouraged to register for the walk at [www.walkamerica.org](http://www.walkamerica.org). Each registrant is assigned their own Web page to personalize, making online fundraising easy. Donations can also be collected via check in person. Every walker who raises at least \$40 will get a free County T-shirt.

To sign up or for more information, contact [Megan Jones](#) or go to [www.walkamerica.org](http://www.walkamerica.org).

## News Briefs News Briefs

### Board of Retirement Election Coming

Ballots will be sent by County mail in the first week of May for a Board of Retirement election to select a new member for its third seat, which expires June 30, 2007. All active General members are eligible to run for the seat, which represents permanent employees classified by SDCERA as General members (non-Safety).

Candidates can pick up a petition at the second floor reception area of SDCERA, 2275 Rio Bonito Way, Suite 200 in Mission Valley. Petitions must be returned to the office no later than noon, April 16. The elected candidate serves a three-year term, beginning July 1.

The Board of Retirement governs the benefits and investments of the retirement fund. To learn more about a Board member's responsibilities and fundamental obligations, go to the Board of Retirement page on [www.sdcera.org](http://www.sdcera.org).

### CWW Tip of the Week

The County's new "CWW Tip of the Week" section on its Intranet site is just one tip a week, but over the course of the year, that's a lot of new information to discover. The Chief Administrative Office started this new feature to draw employees' attention to a multitude of "gems" on both the County's internal and external Web sites. These tips point out helpful information for employees to stay up-to-date, obtain needed work tools and resources, and do their jobs more efficiently. And, of course, this is a natural extension of the County's commitment to use its IT tools to improve communication and streamline business processes.

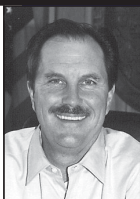
The "CWW Tip of the Week" is always posted at the end of the Employee Messages box, which is located at the top, left side of the CWW Home page.

Employees who would like to see a particular item highlighted as a "CWW Tip of the Week" should contact [Janice Graham](#), CAO Chief of Staff.

### Parks Previews New Offices

Parks and Recreation is hosting an Open House from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, April 20, to show off their new administrative offices at 9150 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 200 in Kearny Mesa. Food and beverages will be provided. For directions go to [www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org).

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## In *Walt's* Words

### Save Our Earth, It's Our Policy

In the upcoming weeks, we will celebrate Earth Day as well as Arbor Day. As we head into April, this is an important time to think about our environment and its everyday importance in our lives. Particularly here in San Diego County, we are fortunate to enjoy some of the most perfect weather in the world. But, as we all know, this is a gift and certainly not a guarantee.

In order to preserve our wonderful climate, we must actively do our part at home and at the office.

You might be surprised to find out that here at the County, we are actually required to reduce waste and consumption. Board of Supervisors Policy B-67 obliges us to minimize waste and preserve the environment to the greatest extent practicable by using duplex printing and copying. Most people aren't aware of this policy, but it is a great step forward in making the County more efficient and environmentally friendly. By setting our photocopiers and printers to print double-sided, we can reduce paper consumption by nearly fifty percent.

Annually, the County purchases more than 184 million sheets of paper. That's a lot of trees! But that can be reduced with a simple service request. Your office's printer can be set to print double-sided, and you can begin to save trees, paper and financial resources with hardly any effort at all.

Saving the environment is not an easy task. For those of us who don't intend to make a career out of it, recycling and reducing waste can seem like a major endeavor that we just don't have time for. But clearly, we can make a huge difference each and every day in the office, just by doing what we are already supposed to do.

Walt Ekard  
Chief Administrative Officer

### Blood Drives Infuses Community with Gift of Life

The Health and Human Services Agency kicks off its annual County Blood Drive on April 4, at the Ruffin Road County Operations Center Annex. The blood drive, held in conjunction with the San Diego Blood Bank, heads downtown to the County Administration Center the next day, and will visit eighteen additional County worksites through April 25.

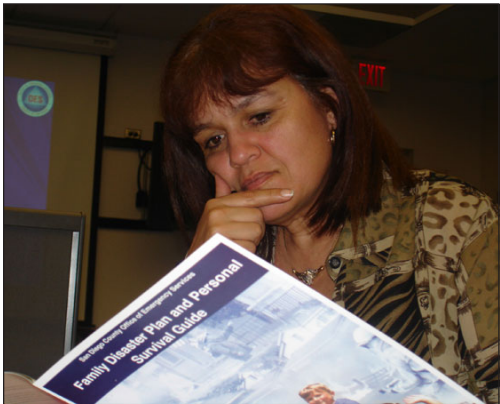
This year's goal is to collect 700 pints of blood—100 pints more than were donated last year. With less than a one-day supply of blood on hand at the San Diego Blood Bank, this drive plays a crucial role in helping the community. Employees can take paid time off from work to donate with permission from their supervisor.

To meet blood supply needs, the blood bank must collect 400 pints every day. Although 80 percent of the population will receive a blood transfusion over their lifetime, only 5 percent donate blood.

A complete list of County locations is available on the [HHSA's Intranet site](#) on CWW or by calling (619) 692-5639. For more information about donating blood, please visit [www.sandiegobloodbank.org](http://www.sandiegobloodbank.org).

## Shelter Training Offers Employees New Way to Assist in Disasters

In the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor, nearly 120 County employees have volunteered to work in community shelters in the event of a large-scale disaster. With the goal of enlisting several hundred volunteers, the Office of Emergency Services and the Health and Human Services Agency continue to recruit additional employees for upcoming Shelter Manager and Shelter Worker trainings.



*Yolanda Perez, Human Resources, reviews disaster preparedness materials distributed during an OES shelter worker training.*

"While all County employees are Disaster Service Workers during an emergency, this training gives employees the opportunity to contribute in a very specific and valuable way," said Stasia Place, the Emergency Services Coordinator conducting the training. "We provide volunteers with the necessary tools and knowledge to operate a successful shelter."

The next training for Shelter Workers is 1 to 5 p.m. on April 19. A more extensive training, Shelter Managers, is offered 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 20. This class is geared toward employees with leadership skills and the ability to manage people and operations. All training sessions are held at the County Emergency Operations Center and require supervisory approval.

Because the American Red Cross has primary responsibility for operating emergency shelters in the region, County workers only will be called to action when Red Cross resources have been exhausted. Once trained, volunteers will be placed on a list maintained at the Emergency Operations Center.

To volunteer and learn details about upcoming shelter training, please call the Office of Emergency Services at (858) 565-3490.

## News Briefs News Briefs cont.

### Tax Tent Camps Out at CAC

For thousands of San Diego County property owners, the deadline to pay the second installment of their annual property taxes is quickly approaching. While paying online at [www.sdtreastax.com](http://www.sdtreastax.com) is always a welcome option, the Tax Tent will be back again this year at the County Administration Center. Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister notes, "Tax payers have told us over and over again that the Tax Tent is extremely convenient and helpful, and that it saves them time during the final few days of each tax collection period." The giant white tent will be located on the south lawn of the CAC, where nearly 4,000 property owners paid their taxes at this time last year.

The Tax Tent will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 5; Friday, April 6; and Monday, April 9. The Kearny Mesa branch office will be open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 7. The main office, as well as all four branch offices, will offer extended hours from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. on the Tuesday, April 10 deadline.

### Composting For Everyone

Composting is nature's way to recycle; making it a natural fit for the County's recycling outreach program. Organic materials, such as leaves, grass clippings, prunings and fruit and vegetable scraps produce compost through natural decomposition. This process produces a nutrient rich soil product valuable for gardens and landscaping.

A recent state survey showed that over 42 percent of disposed materials in residential waste are compostable. In landfills, these same materials can ultimately create harmful greenhouse gas 24 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Free composting workshops are held throughout the County; a list of dates and other resources are available online at [The Solana Center](http://TheSolanaCenter.com). The site also provides information on how to build a compost bin out of scrap material or buy one at a reduced cost. For more information about the County's recycling program, contact [Michael Wonsidler](mailto:Michael.Wonsidler@sdcl.org), Recycling Specialist by email or at (858) 874-4081.

### Library Expands Collection Without Adding a Book

The County Library has joined with San Diego's four major universities to offer a new book delivery service for its customers, giving them unprecedented access to these library collections without having to travel further than their local County branch library. Customers can now make free online requests for books held by San Diego State University, University of California, San Diego, University of San Diego and CSU San Marcos. For more information click on "The Circuit" icon at [www.sdcl.org](http://www.sdcl.org).

### Probation Officers Looking to Clear Warrants

The Probation Department has created a new unit to apprehend adult and juvenile probationers with outstanding felony warrants. The Warrant Unit will use computer records, collateral contacts, and surveillance to locate targets. The five armed officers will also work closely with the multi-jurisdictional Fugitive Task Force to provide rapid response to local law enforcement requests.



## Animal Services Rep Unleashes Spirit of Giving Through Basket Drive

Belen Durazo of Animal Services says some of her Sunday School kids are a step away from a stay at St. Vincent De Paul Village in terms of their economic status. But that hasn't stopped their enthusiasm, drive or generosity as they gathered more than 500 filled Easter baskets for children and teens living at the shelter or helped through its outreach services.

The baskets are part of the community service work required for her high school-aged students as they prepare for their confirmation ceremony at St. Jude Catholic Church in the Mountain View community of San Diego. Durazo estimates that between her students and their families, about 200 church members worked toward this community effort. Additional baskets or supplies were donated by her coworkers, San Diego High School, and JD's Taco Shop.

Now in its seventh year, Durazo says there wasn't a dry eye around as the students (led by their local fire department) bunny-hopped more than 20 city blocks on March 25 to deliver the baskets to waiting shelter staff. The staff will, in turn, deliver the baskets on Easter day.

The Easter Basket drive was the brain-child of Durazo, a bilingual animal services representative at the County's central shelter, after a chance meeting on Easter many years ago with a family staying at St. Vincent de Paul. She was moved to do something to lift the spirit of children in need on a day that is so meaningful to her.

"We can feed them, we can clothe them," Durazo says, "but how do you make the young ones feel like someone cares about them? The Easter basket is spring and it's hope and it's something that says, 'I'm still a child, it's still okay.'"

The baskets include Easter essentials such as chocolate bunnies and jelly beans, as well as school supplies and socks – items that are in big demand this time of the year.

While the teens don't ever meet the youth who will ultimately receive the baskets, their visit to St. Vincent De Paul is nonetheless a reality check.

"It enlightens teenagers at a time when they're kind of self-centered and selfish and they haven't opened their eyes to the whole world," Durazo says.

As important as it is to experience the spirit of giving, Durazo is proud of this annual endeavor because it shines a positive light on a community that is too often in the news for its problems.



Belen Durazo (left photo) channels the community spirit of youth at her church (photo above) for an annual Easter basket drive to benefit the kids at St. Vincent De Paul Village.

"I live in a neighborhood that's been a target of gangs and the negatives that come with it," she says. "What I wanted to focus on is that we have good families here. We struggle to make a living, but we're here. We're productive members of our community."

## NEWSMAKERS

Registrar of Voters director **Mikel Haas** has been named Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of the Community Services Group, replacing Alex Martinez, who retired last month. Haas has been with the County for 13 years and has extensive management experience within the Community Services Group, including director of Animal Services and interim director for Housing and Community Development. Haas is scheduled to begin his duties as soon as

an interim Registrar of Voters is named, which will be followed by an extensive search for his permanent replacement.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving recognized Supervising Probation Officer **Gonzalo Mendez** with a "2006 Special Law Enforcement Award" for his work on the DUI Enforcement Team. The DUI Enforcement Team supervises 250 high risk and repeat DUI offenders through home visits, substance abuse tests, and enforcement of court ordered treatment.

Student worker **Lauren Lowrey** was awarded a college scholarship to play soccer at Kansas Wesleyan University in Kansas. Lowrey recently received her AA degree from Grossmont College, where she was a member of the women's soccer team, and has been a student worker at the Polinsky Children's Center since 2005. She is the daughter of long-time County employee Melissa, of Parks and Recreation, and Lloyd, of the Health and Human Services Agency.

### Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1  
Dianne Jacob, District 2  
Pam Slater-Price, District 3  
Ron Roberts, District 4  
Bill Horn, District 5

Chief Administrative Officer  
Walter F. Ekard

County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego. The newsletter is available online at [www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dmpr](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dmpr)

(click on "Employee Newsletter") or via the County's Intranet at CWW. This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.

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# COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

## [ Ver•ba•tim ]

**Linda Kamansky** (ARCC/Manufactured Homes) received a heartfelt letter of appreciation for providing great service to one of our customers.

"It is not often these days that someone takes the extra time and caring to help someone else. Your concern for my problem and myself is something that I will never forget."

Occupational Therapist **Beth Graalman** and Physical Therapist **Michelle Sherer** (HHSA, Children Services) received an appreciative note from El Camino High School for giving a presentation at the school's career center.

"We especially enjoyed the pictures of the variety of 'tools' you use with the children. You were both so thorough with the information about your careers... We really appreciate it."

**Lisa Robles** (DPLU) thoroughly impressed one of her clients with exceptional customer service and professionalism.

"She was extremely helpful, courteous, friendly, and knowledgeable. She handled my request in the most professional manner. She truly reflects a great dedication to her work as a civil employee of the County."

**Cynthia Davis** (AWM) helped spread a positive impression of her department through her handling of a complaint against a supermarket.

"I want to thank you and your department for responding so rapidly to my complaint."

**Leslie Vicedo** (Health & Human Services Agency) received praise and thanks from a woman on dialysis for the consistent and prompt service provided to her at a difficult time.

"I've never ever had a young lady or a woman to help me and be so consistent whenever I called and need something. She is so awesome and with me being with my illness up and down, whenever I call her she immediately returns my call."

The City Clerk's office in National City recognized **Andrea Carreira** (ARCC/County Clerk) for her assistance in tracking down a marriage license for a distraught widow who had given them the wrong date.

"Andrea made the extra effort to not only locate the license, but determine what the problem was and respond personally to the citizen's needs. Andrea is a credit to her department and should be commended for her efforts."

**Jim Gonsalves** (District Three) earned words of appreciation helping a County employee track down information for a program on domestic violence and animal abuse.

"He quickly researched the information and provided me with important materials within an hour of our initial conversation... he was extremely courteous and incredibly efficient."

**Divina Go** (Health & Human Services Agency) received words of appreciation for all the good she does.

"I just want to thank my case worker for being so understanding, patient and working with me through all my hard time."

**Ron Coca** and **Lori Blundell** (ARCC, Realty Division) were applauded for consistently providing great service to their customers.

"They are organized, competent, and excellent communicators. Both returned phone calls in a timely manner and (helped) resolve our issue to our satisfaction... We are very appreciative of the time and effort they spent with us. We truly value their public service."

The Work Coordinators at SDSU complimented correctional Deputy Probation Officers **Mark Tusi** and **Curtis Butts** (Probation) for always surpassing expectations.

"We would like to take this opportunity to specifically recognize a couple of your officers who have consistently shown strong leadership and an ability to organize each job we give them, maximizing the amount of work they accomplish."

**Karen Standing** (Health & Human Services Agency) was recognized for ability to solve problems in a very courteous manner.

"We need more workers like Karen. She understands the process so well."

**Marcie Kennard** (ARCC, County Clerk) was complimented for promoting and representing her department in a positive light.

"She was very pleasant, helpful, and efficient. I was compelled to write, as I feel Marcie deserves this recognition as an employee who leaves a pleasant impression in the minds of the property owners."

**Tim McDonough** (Auditor/Controller) was recognized by the San Diego City Attorney's office for his prompt response to a last-minute request for his appearance and testimony at an important case.

"Although I am writing to acknowledge his efforts on a particular case, it should be noted that Mr. McDonough has always been a pleasure to work with. He is always responsive, pleasant, hardworking, and willing to assist our office. His efforts on a daily basis are very much appreciated."

**Liza Baua** (Health & Human Services Agency) impressed a customer with her quality service and attentiveness.

"She is courteous and helpful. She helps reconcile the situation if there is a problem. She is always willing to go the extra step."

**LaTiasha Alexander** (Health & Human Services Agency) was recognized for exceptional service and positive attitude.

"I was ready to pull my hair out when Mrs. Alexander took the time and explained the procedures to me with a calm and peaceful personal voice."

## Service Awards

### 35Years

Stephen D. Hendrix (Parks & Recreation)

### 30Years

James E. Mika (Sheriff)  
Michael I. Radovich (Sheriff)

### 25Years

Jesus Gutierrez (Sheriff)  
Jeffrey S. Mitchell (Sheriff)  
Suzanne C. Reschke (Sheriff)

### 20Years

Thomas Amabile (Office of Emergency Services)  
Karen L. Bonner (Auditor & Controller)  
Diane L. Cates-Frazier (Child Support)  
Thomas J. Chifari (Probation)  
Julie D. Cox (District Attorney)  
Maria D. Criss (District Attorney)  
Michael A. Dececchi (Housing & Community Development)  
Roy W. Frank (Sheriff)  
Patrick W. Gardner (Sheriff)  
Anthony L. Gates (Probation)  
Tammie S. Glowacki (Probation)  
Peggy L. Griffith (Health & Human Services)  
Jesus G. Guzman (Health & Human Services)  
Sanita A. Hogan (Health & Human Services)  
Myrna M. Manaloto (Housing & Community Development)

Debra D. Mantack (Health & Human Services)  
Donna L. Matta (Health & Human Services)  
Carlos E. Medina (Sheriff)  
Dion A. Miranda (Sheriff)  
Steven W. Otte (Probation)  
Denise Pelletier (Auditor & Controller)  
Irma G. Pena (Library)  
Richard M. Romero (Health & Human Services)  
Susan Marie Romero (Health & Human Services)  
Daniel C. Tappen (Environmental Health)  
Sheryl D. Taylor (Health & Human Services)  
Donna J. Trousdale (Health & Human Services)  
John E. Velguth (Auditor & Controller)  
Mark A. Watkins (Public Defender)

## Retirements

Victor B. Adame (Sheriff)  
Vivian J. Adkins (Sheriff)  
S. Sandra Allen (Health & Human Services)  
Sandra L. Arvelo (Health & Human Services)  
Maria J. Barthel (Health & Human Services)  
Lana H. Bradley (Health & Human Services)  
Jerald A. Cope (Public Works)  
Joan A. Cuervo (Sheriff)  
William A. Daenitz (Public Works)  
Jean C. Dittmyer (Alternate Public Defender)  
Richard L. Empson (Sheriff)  
Irene K. Flores (Health & Human Services)  
Anita P. Fredendall (Sheriff)  
Enrique Garcia (Human Resources)  
Igmidio D. Generillo (Health & Human Services)  
Margaret R. Goldstein (Facilities Management)

Carlos R. Gonzalez (Superior Court)  
Patricia A. Grubb (Sheriff)  
Paul-rene N. Hoang (Environmental Health)  
Cris H. Ibarra (Health & Human Services)  
Vivien M. Isom (District Attorney)  
Terry E. Jensen (District Attorney)  
Carol J. Judkins (Health & Human Services)  
Janis I. Lemaster (Health & Human Services)  
Guadalupe Michel-Guerrero (Health & Human Services)  
Annabelle L. Montillano (Library)  
Stacy L. Rodriguez (District Attorney)  
Esther Rosenberg (Health & Human Services)  
Ernest M. Saenz (Health & Human Services)  
Yolanda Salcido (Superior Court)  
Noemi Santiago-Stevens (Superior Court)  
Margaret A. Secor (Sheriff)

Douglas J. Shinebarger (Sheriff)  
Douglas R. Slingerland (District Attorney)  
Margaret R. Sohn (Facilities Management)  
Daniel A. Speer (Air Pollution Control)  
Scott R. Stell (Sheriff)  
Rosalina C. Sunglao (Sheriff)  
Sandra J. Trombly (District Attorney)  
Reynita C. Victoria (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)  
Calvin L. Vine (Medical Examiner)  
Bruce J. Walker (Health & Human Services)  
Linda D. Walkup (Health & Human Services)  
Patricia L. Weikel (Air Pollution Control)  
J. C. Whitehead (Sheriff)  
Allen M. Williamson (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)



## In Memoriam

John J. Cataldo (Marshal, 1997)	1/07	Marion Lynch (Health Services, 1992)	12/06
Walter J. Cebula (General Services, 1978)	12/06	Donald E. Makosky (Health Services, 1989)	12/06
William J. Dayton (Health & Human Services, 2004)	1/07	Joe L. Mathis (Public Works, 1998)	1/07
Harriett H. Draper (Health Services, 1962)	1/07	William V. McDonell (Sheriff, 1978)	1/07
Gabriel Ella (Probation, 1990)	12/06	Evelyn Nelson (A&C/Revenue Recovery, 1964)	1/07
M. Beatrice Enos (Medical Institution, 1973)	1/07	Helen G. Nelson (Treasurer-Tax Collector, 1985)	1/07
Paul T. Garcia (General Services, 1985)	12/06	Mary A. Rozinka (Health & Human Services, 2000)	1/07
Elizabeth E. Gibbs (Clerk of the Board, 1987)	1/07	Sandra Russell (Health & Human Services, 2003)	1/07
Thelma Greene (Probation, 1979)	1/07	Josephine Silva (Housing & Comm Dev, 1994)	1/07
Mary V. Holden (A&C/Revenue Recovery, 1978)	1/07	Benjamin Sisti (Parks & Recreation, 1983)	12/06
Grace E. Jones (Health Services, 1978)	9/06	Margaret A. Slack (Civil Service Commission, 1978)	1/07
Leroy M. Jones (A&C/Revenue Recovery, 1988)	1/07	Lupe Solis (Health Services, 1999)	1/07
Jan J. Kitchel (Health & Human Services, 2006)	1/07	Rayford R. Standley (Public Works, 1976)	1/07
Bonnie L. Klunder (Sheriff, 1996)	12/06	Donald Van Gerpen (Sheriff, 1993)	1/07
Stephenay M. Lindahl (Health Services, 1972)	1/07	Ethel B. Wright (Treasurer-Tax Collector, 1979)	1/07
Robert L. Lungren (General Services, 1977)	1/07		

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of active County employee Renato F. De Leon, Sheriff (12/06).

## News Briefs Extra News Briefs Extra

### Lights out? No Way, Says HHSA

Thanks to cooperation between various federal and County departments, Supervisor Dianne Jacob, and local community groups, the Health and Human Services Agency has secured an emergency generator for Campo's Mountain Empire Community Center. The generator, which will keep programs running and lights on during emergencies, was purchased with funds obtained by HHSA through the federal Health Resources and Services Administration and the National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program.

### HCD Youth Career Day

Housing and Community Development (HCD) held its second annual Career Day on February 22. Twenty-seven young adults between the ages of 17 and 23 attended from the Polinski Center, County Workforce Academy for Youth, County Office of Education, Martin Luther King Recreation Center, and HCD's Family Self-Sufficiency and Public Housing programs. Presentations focused on interviewing skills, job preparation activities and work opportunities within the County of San Diego.

Guest speakers included Jacquelyn

Clark, Staff Accountant from HHSA, and San Diego Police Officer Alonzo Alexander. They spoke about their life experiences and positive influences that led to their careers in the public sector.

The attendees told staff that they were thrilled with the event and many requested to participate again next year. One young man connected with Officer Alexander who plans to mentor him for a career in law enforcement. Motivating experiences such as this make positive changes in the lives of young adults and contribute toward the goal of self-sufficiency.

### Kudos for Cool Zone

Aging & Independence Services received one of six nationwide 2007 Healthcare and Aging Awards. The department was honored for its Cool Zones program at the American Society on Aging/National Council on Aging Joint Conference in March.

The Healthcare and Aging Awards recognize outstanding intervention programs developed to improve the healthcare of the aging population. Awards Review Committee members noted that Cool Zones is an excellent collaboration between public and private organizations, and also that it is a "replicable model that could easily be instituted in other communities."

The Cool Zone program began in 2001 after an unusually hot summer characterized by energy blackouts and higher utility costs. Supervisor Dianne Jacob created the idea of designating Cool Zones where seniors and others could come to share air conditioning and save their own energy, plus protect their health against the heat. AIS receives funding for the program from SDG&E and partners with several sites that agree to be Cool Zones, including libraries, nutrition centers and senior centers.

### Board Staff Continue Dynasty

Bragging rights were all that were at stake at a February 16 flag football game between County Board of Supervisors staff and their counterparts at the City of San Diego, but the County walked away the victor nonetheless. The 21-18 outcome made for a clean sweep of all three annual contests, which was held this year at La Jolla High School. The "friendly competition" was designed to promote better working relationships with colleagues at the city. And though it was for fun, in true gridiron fashion there were some casualties on the field among the 12 County players, including a broken ankle and elbow injury that required surgery.

## A Look Back at Probation's 100-Year Journey

Just a few months into its existence, San Diego County's Probation Committee hired Jacob A. Reed as the first ever probation officer in January 1908. Reed supervised both adults and juveniles.

The second and third probation officers were hired in April 1911. They were refused salary payment by the County's Auditor on the grounds that it was illegal for females to work for the county government. Both were finally paid their salary plus interest after the Superior Court and Court of Appeals held that local laws allowed for employment of women.

The first juvenile detention home served both delinquents and dependents, from infants to teenagers. It was originally a seven bedroom farmhouse located on 1.5 acres in Mission Valley near present day Seven Seas Motor Lodge.

Sarah Anthony served as the home's superintendent from February 1, 1919 until her retirement on June 15, 1941. In 1939



*When Sarah Anthony began as detention home matron in 1919, she supervised 17 children. During the next 22 years she supervised a total of 14,254 boys and girls.*

the San Diego Detention Home was renamed the Anthony Home and the court schools still bear her name.

Anthony taught the youth basic home

economics and how to raise vegetables, rabbits, and bees. Those in her charge included boys and girls who were charged with theft, runaway, drunkenness, sex delinquency or use of narcotics, among others.

In 1942, the fire marshal condemned the building and the front doors had to remain unlocked at all times. In 1950 voters passed a bond measure to build a new juvenile detention facility in Kearny Mesa.

Probation officers transferred 91 wards to the new Juvenile Hall on June 30, 1954. The Evening Tribune reported that experts called it the finest juvenile detention facility in the United States at the time.

Juvenile Hall originally housed a maximum of 111 boys and girls but after undergoing numerous upgrades and expansions it once held as many as 639 youth in 1998. To reduce overcrowding, the East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility was opened in 2004.

## FINANCIAL TIPS by San Diego County Credit Union

### Good Debt/ Bad Debt 101

For some, debt is a necessary evil, a means to the greater end of owning your own home or starting a new business venture. For others, debt is just the unfortunate result of unbridled retail consumerism. Especially during tax season, it is important to take an honest look at your debt and consider your past actions and future options.

Not all debt is undesirable. Experts encourage consumers to utilize a few rules of thumb to recognize the difference between good and bad debt.

If you buy something that immediately loses value, that purchase probably amounts to bad debt. Let's say you use a high-interest credit card to buy disposable items, such as groceries and diapers, or durable goods, such as a refrigerator or television. If you don't pay the balance in full when the bill arrives, then

you will be charged interest while that item is used up or depreciates in value.

On the other hand, investment debts that create value, such as real estate loans, home mortgages, and business or student loans are examples of good debt. Additionally, debts that are tax-deductible and ones that produce more wealth in the long run, like high-return stocks, bonds, and other investments, are considered good debt.

What about taking on more debt to reduce current debt? A tax-deductible home equity loan at six percent is considered good debt if you can use it to pay off a credit card with a high interest rate. Of course, the key is not to run that credit card debt right back up again.

You might think auto loans are examples of bad debt because car values decrease the moment they are driven off the lot. However, if you take out an auto loan for a car that gets better gas mileage than your old vehicle, you could be better off financially.

What's the best type of debt? The number one example of good debt is mortgage debt because home values have increased an average of 6.5 percent per year over the

past 30 years. Home ownership is one of the best ways to build wealth over time.

Other strategies for building wealth include:

- Set SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Adjustable, Realistic and Time-oriented).
- Pay yourself first, and automate your savings using payroll deductions.
- Understand basic investing principles, such as compound interest, risk, diversification, dollar-cost averaging and asset allocation.
- Reduce debt. Start by paying off high-interest credit card debt, and avoid late fees. Paying your bills on time makes up about 35% of your credit score.

For more information about understanding debt, please contact San Diego County Credit Union at 877-732-2848 or visit [www.sdccu.com](http://www.sdccu.com).

*Do you have financial questions or issues you want to see covered in the next column? Send them to us at [CountyNews@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:CountyNews@sdcounty.ca.gov).*



## Filipino Employee Association Focuses on Future

Helping employees build a career with the County is one of the top priorities of the County of San Diego Filipino Employees Association (CSDFEA).

"We are here as a support network for all members – Filipino employees and others," says association president Elainerose Lontoc, who is an administrative analyst with the Sheriff's department.

The exact number of Filipino employees within the County isn't known, as they are grouped under "Asian" in the County's diversity reporting, but it is a significant minority. However, there are no Filipino-Americans among the County's top management. While that's not something the association can control, its board can make every opportunity available to its members to gain the skills needed to grow their careers.



*CSDFEA board members celebrate their induction at a March dinner for the organization.*

"We're not here to take the first step for you, but we're here to give you the resources that you need," says Lontoc.

Reorganized just two years ago, the organization is one of the County's most active employee associations with more than 100 members. While a majority of members are of Filipino ancestry, the association is open to any County employees and currently counts a number of ethnic groups among its membership.

The CSDFEA not only focuses on the professional life of its members, it celebrates the Filipino culture. On June 8 the group will host a Filipino Independence Day celebration at the County Administration Center, an event that has always drawn a large crowd.

For more information about the CSDFEA, contact Lontoc at (619) 974-2197 or [Elainerose.lontoc@sdsheriff.org](mailto:Elainerose.lontoc@sdsheriff.org).

## Rat Survival Guide

*This information is brought to you by the County of San Diego Vector Control Program.*

**Got rats?** Rats live all over the County, especially where there is plenty of food and shelter.

**Why worry?** Rats can pose many health hazards. They can spread a variety of diseases and cause food-borne illnesses by contaminating food, dishes and countertops. Rats can also cause structural damage, start fires and destroy vehicles by chewing on electrical wires.

**How do I know if I have rats?** Look for these common signs of rat activity:

- Rat droppings.
- Damaged food containers.
- Grease marks on the walls from the rats' fur rubbing where they enter buildings.
- Stripped bark or hollowed out fruit in the yard.
- Piles of snail shells with the tops cut off under plants in the yard.

**How can I get rid of rats?** Rats need food and shelter to survive. Removing their food and shelter will force them to move away from your home. There are several things you can do around your house to keep rats away. Rodent-proof your home by sealing up openings larger than the size of a quarter. Get rid of thick vegetation, trash and debris, and trim trees, bushes, and vines away from fences and other structures. Eliminate food sources by picking up fallen fruit and removing pet dishes as soon as your pets are done eating.

**What does the Vector Control Program do?** A vector is any insect, arthropod, rodent or other animal of public health significance that can cause discomfort or injury to humans or is capable of passing along human disease.

The purpose of the County's Vector Control Program is to prevent these diseases and minimize their potential effects. The Vector Control Program provides free on-site consultations and educational materials such as rat brochures and videos. The program also educates the public about steps they can take to prevent and protect against vector infestations such as those caused by rats.

**What happens during an on-site consultation?** When you request an on-site consultation of your home, a Vector Control Technician will survey your property, evaluate how rats are getting into buildings and determine what steps can be taken to keep them out. Vector Control Technicians are *not* exterminators. In addition to showing residents and business owners how to exclude rats from their homes, sheds, and garages, Vector Control Technicians will provide a free rat control starter kit. Starter kits include a tamper-resistant bait box, rat trap, mesh wire for sealing openings, rat control DVD and pamphlet.

**Where can I find more information?** If you would like to request an on-site visit or need more information about rat control and prevention, please contact the Vector Control Program at (858) 694-2888, email [vector@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:vector@sdcounty.ca.gov), or visit our website at [www.SDVector.com](http://www.SDVector.com).